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WITHDRAWAL SHEET (PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES)

FORM OF DOCUMENT	CORRESPONDENTS OR TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
Schedule	Proposed Schedule for Mrs. Ford's Visit to Des Moines, 5 pages.	6/18/1976	B

File Location:

Sheila Weidenfeld Files, Box 26, Folder: "6/18/1976 - Des Moines, Iowa - State Republican Convention" SMD - 1/13/2017

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FOR YOUR USE AND INFORMATION

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

**TRIP OF THE PRESIDENT TO
DES MOINES, IOWA
FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 1976**

12:30 p. m. edt Press check-in Andrews AFB Press Center.

**1:00 p. m. edt Press plane departs Andrews AFB en route
Des Moines Municipal Airport, Des Moines, Iowa.**

**Flying time: 2 hours, 15 minutes
Time Change: - 1 hour
Lunch will be served en route.**

**1:15 p. m. edt THE PRESIDENT boards Marine One and departs the
South Lawn en route Andrews AFB.**

**1:30 p. m. edt THE PRESIDENT arrives Andrews AFB, boards Air Force
One and departs Andrews AFB en route Des Moines
Municipal Airport, Des Moines, Iowa.**

Press Pool #1 accompanies the President on Air Force One.

**2:15 p. m. cdt Press plane arrives Des Moines Municipal Airport,
Des Moines, Iowa.
Press Advanceman:
Jim Hunter**

**PRESS NOTE: Press facilities located in the press
area:**

**6 long distance telephones
1 mult**

**2:30 p. m. cdt One press bus departs Des Moines Municipal Airport
en route Savery Hotel to pre-position Hotel arrival
and Governor's Reception in Terrace Room.**

2:45 p. m. cdt Press bus arrives Savery Hotel to pre-position.

**2:50 p. m. cdt THE PRESIDENT arrives Des Moines Municipal Airport
(Air National Guard side), Des Moines, Iowa.**

OPEN PRESS COVERAGE



The President is met by:

Governor Robert Ray
Mrs. Mary Louise Smith, GOP National Chairman
Lt. Governor Art Neu
Secretary of State Mel Synhorst
State Treasurer Maurice Baringer
PFC Chairman Ralph McCartney
PFC Vice-Chairman Dawn Roberts
State Auditor Lloyd R. Smith
Secretary of Agriculture Robert H. Lounsberry
Wing Commander General Roger Gilber

3:00 p. m. cdt

THE PRESIDENT departs Des Moines Municipal Airport via auto en route Savery Hotel.

Press Pool #2 and press bus follow.

3:12 p. m. cdt

THE PRESIDENT arrives Savery Hotel.

PRESS POOL #2 COVERAGE
OPEN PRESS COVERAGE

PRESS NOTE: The Press Center is located in the Iowa Room, Mezzanine Level of the Savery Hotel. Press facilities are:

- 20 long distance telephones
- 1 mult
- 2 telex - located in passageway room adjacent to the West Room, Press Office Staff Room.

The President is met by:

Mr. E. A. Boss, Hotel Owner
Mrs. Lynn Reilly, Manager

THE PRESIDENT proceeds to Suite.

3:20 p. m. cdt

THE PRESIDENT arrives Suite.

3:30 p. m. cdt

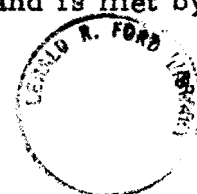
THE PRESIDENT departs Suite en route Terrace Room for Governor's Reception.

3:35 p. m. cdt

THE PRESIDENT arrives Terrace Room, and is met by Governor Ray.

OPEN PRESS COVERAGE

(MORE)



PRESS NOTE: Camera throw from press platform is approximately 15 to 35 feet.

3:41 p. m. cdt Introduction of the President by Governor Ray.

3:42 p. m. cdt PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS.

FULL PRESS COVERAGE

3:50 p. m. cdt PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS conclude.

THE PRESIDENT, escorted by Governor Ray, departs platform en route Suite.

7:15 p. m. cdt Press bus #1 departs Savery Hotel en route Veteran's Memorial Auditorium to pre-position.

PRESS NOTE: Anyone wishing to view the President's participation at Veteran's Memorial Auditorium must board the 7:15 p. m. bus. Remarks will be piped to the Press Center at the Savery Hotel.

7:18 p. m. cdt Press bus #1 arrives Veteran's Memorial Auditorium to pre-position.

PRESS NOTE: Press area located at press platform.
Press facilities are:
10 long distance telephones
2 mults at the press platform
60 foot camera throw

7:30 p. m. cdt Press Pool #3 assemble at the Locust Street entrance of the Savery Hotel.

7:45 p. m. cdt THE PRESIDENT departs Savery Hotel via auto en route Veteran's Memorial Auditorium.

Press Pool #3 follows in motorcade.

7:47 p. m. cdt THE PRESIDENT arrives Veteran's Memorial Auditorium.

PRESS POOL #3 COVERAGE
OPEN PRESS COVERAGE

7:50 p. m. cdt THE PRESIDENT proceeds to platform.

OPEN PRESS COVERAGE

(MORE)

7:56 p. m. cdt PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS.

FULL PRESS COVERAGE

8:00 p. m. cdt PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS CONCLUDE.

PRESS NOTE: Press Pool #3 assemble at the press platform immediately at the conclusion of the President's remarks.

8:02 p. m. cdt Remarks by Mary Louise Smith

8:05 p. m. cdt Farewell remarks by Governor Ray.

8:10 p. m. cdt THE PRESIDENT departs Veteran's Memorial Auditorium via auto en route Des Moines Municipal Airport.

Press Pool #3 and Press bus #1 follow in motorcade.

8:23 p. m. cdt THE PRESIDENT arrives Des Moines Municipal Airport.

OPEN PRESS COVERAGE

8:30 p. m. cdt THE PRESIDENT boards Air Force One and departs Des Moines Municipal Airport, Des Moines, Iowa en route Andrews AFB.

Press pool #4 accompanies the President on Air Force One.
Flying Time: 2 hours
Time Change: +1 hour

8:30 p. m. cdt Press bus #2 departs the Savery Hotel, Locust Street entrance, en route Des Moines Municipal Airport.

8:45 p. m. cdt Press bus #2 arrives Des Moines Municipal Airport.

9:00 p. m. cdt Press plane departs Des Moines Municipal Airport en route Andrews AFB.
Dinner will be served en route.

11:30 p. m. edt THE PRESIDENT arrives Andrews AFB, boards Marine One and departs en route the South Lawn.

11:50 p. m. edt THE PRESIDENT arrives the South Lawn, The White House.

12:00 p. m. edt Press Plane arrives Andrews AFB.

#





Office of the Governor

STATE CAPITOL
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319

ROBERT D. RAY
GOVERNOR

June 18, 1976

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Governor Robert Ray confirmed in Des Moines that President Ford will remain in Washington, D.C. because of the serious situation involving the evacuation of American nationals in Lebanon.

The Governor further stated that Mrs. Ford will fly to Iowa this afternoon and will follow the full schedule already announced for the President's visit.

In his announcement, Ray said, "As disappointing as it is not to have the President with us, and I know he wanted to be here. As Americans we have to appreciate that we have a President like President Ford in the Oval Office at a time like this. When he announced his candidacy last year, the President said he would be the President first and a candidate second. He met with the National Security Council last evening and with the Cabinet this morning, and is clearly demonstrating the kind of leadership needed in this nation in such a volatile situation. I believe that Iowa Republicans who have been invited to attend the reception with the President, while also disappointed, will understand his compelling reason for not being able to travel to Des Moines. They are wise enough



-more-

Add 1--

to know that American lives and this country have to have first consideration regardless of the great importance of the campaign. We know there is no substitute for the appearance of the President. That means every Ford supporter will have to make an extra effort."

Ray added that he is "most pleased" that Betty Ford will be in Iowa to visit with delegates to the State Republican Convention. Senators Robert Griffin of Michigan, Howard Baker of Tennessee, Robert Dole of Kansas and Congressman Guy B. Vanderjagt of Michigan will also attend the reception and other convention related events, as representatives of the President.

Republican — Gerald R. Ford

Since assuming the presidency in late 1974, Gerald R. Ford has steadfastly held to his principles. By doing so, he has proved much more than a caretaker president. He has emerged as an effective proponent of fiscal responsibility in Washington and continued strength and cooperation around the globe.

*San Jose (Cal.) News
May 25, 1976*



Ford

The Oregon Journal
Friday May 21, 1976

The Journal endorses Republican Gerald Ford

For the Republican nomination, Ford stands as a distinct preference to Reagan, whose oversimplification of complex public questions may have won him a short burst of support but does not commend him to the presidency.

Reagan has been reckless with the Panama Canal question, has hurt the conduct of foreign policy with his demagogic attacks on Secretary of State Kissinger and has been generally irresponsible in assailing the President on military spending.

There has been some fear that President Ford would overreact to the Reagan broadsides and that he, too, would move too far to the right to carry on the moderate tone that his administration has taken. But he seems to have kept his balance.

Ford runs on his record, and it is not a bad record at all, considering the rough seas the ship of state was sailing when he took the helm.

As the first nonelected president or vice president to occupy the White House, Ford moved in at a time when the nation was mired in its worst political scandal. Against the tide of cynicism and distrust, Ford fashioned an open administration, restored a sense of personal integrity and decency to the presidency and began to pull his country back to confidence in its institutions again.

Meanwhile, he also attacked the nation's economic woes. First he set out to battle inflation, then concluded that the recession was the most immediate problem. The recovery has been slow, but it is now well under way.

Ford has had some notable battles with Congress, but this is not surprising considering the political differences between a Republican executive branch and a Democratic legislative branch. On the whole, the President has provided steady and trustworthy personal leadership and an open and effective administration.

What he told a congressional committee considering his nomination for the vice presidency in early 1974 is apt today as an assessment of the Ford philosophy as president: "I am a moderate on domestic issues, a conservative in fiscal affairs and a dyed-in-the-wool internationalist."

Ford's presidential pattern has been consistent with the commitments he expressed for 25 years in the House of Representatives, including nine years as House minority leader. Those commitments were to a strong defense and limited federal involvement in the private and social sector. An early congressional enthusiast for revenue sharing as a device to reduce unnecessary federal interference in state and local government, as President he has continued to emphasize its viability and the need for federal government to strip away costly, time-consuming and unproductive regulatory powers.

Ford has made vigorous but judicious use of the veto power, employing it 49 times — mostly to check what he considered irresponsible spending or unnecessary expansion of big government's role in the individual's private life, the economy or oversight of state and local government.

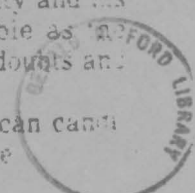
The Ford economic record is most impressive. Most notably, he has forced Congress to link tax cuts to spending cuts. Refusing the temptation to grab at makeshift work schemes that would plunge the federal government deeper into the planned economy quagmire, the President first concentrated on checking inflation, hopeful that unemployment would begin to dwindle once Americans' confidence in their economy was restored.

The current rate of inflation is less than 5 per cent — a happy contrast from double digit inflation — and the jobless rate is steadily declining. The nation's balance of payments is sound. The prospects for the United States to adapt to external economic pressures in the future are enhanced by its having done so in the immediate past.

The President has cleared the word "detente" from his vocabulary, but he remains "a dyed-in-the-wool internationalist," albeit a wiser one. One-way detente is behind us. The new emphasis is on peace through strength while attempting to avoid undue and unnecessary increases in tensions with the Soviet Union.

Ford came to the presidency in the wake of one of this nation's most disruptive domestic crises and in the final months of its most divisive foreign war. His personal integrity and his firm leadership have been invaluable as the United States has grappled with self-doubts and problems.

Ford offers what no other Republican candidate can offer: presidential experience



WELCOME TO THE 1976 IOWA PRESIDENTIAL CONVENTION!

These next 2 days will be not only very important for your Party , but a great deal of fun! To help you in finding out what is happening in Des Moines we have compiled the following information about the Convention.

FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 1976

3pm -5pm PRESIDENT FORD RECEPTION

Des Moines- Terrace Room Savery Hotel

6pm SALUTE TO MARY LOUISE - Vets Auditorium

\$25.00 Per Person

\$12.50 Jr. Delegates

8:30pm DISTRICT CAUCAS

1st District-Hilton Hotel
Ball Room

2nd District- Savery Hotel
Terrace Room

3rd District-Howard Johnsons
at Merle Hay

4th District- Vets Auditorium
Harry Gaskell

5th District-Ramada Inn
Downtown

6th District- Hotel Savery
Grand Ball Room

10:30pm PRESIDENT FORD HOSPITALITY SUITE

Room 348 Pub Room - Hotel Savery

SATURDAY, JUNE 19, 1976

10:00 REPUBLICAN STATE CONVENTION - Vets Auditorium

President Ford Committee

Pres called -

Guy Vanderjock

Sen. Dole

Baker

Jack Ford

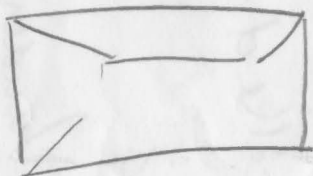
6-17

ON ARRIVAL SHELIAH WEIDENFELD
PLEASE CALL SUSAN PORTER

1:35P

30-10

FO



Larry Eastlund (Grenier)

Press
BIBLIE

Anne Green

autortown

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

30 min
up
C-9

Iowa

Andy Stern

Jim Hunter

20 press / TRANSPORTATION?

- 3 com. cars -

21-24 people

1230
1:15

20 seats
2c



MEMORANDUM
OF CALL

TO:

Sally

YOU WERE CALLED BY—

YOU WERE VISITED BY—

Virgil Oakman

Des. Moines, Iowa

PLEASE CALL →

PHONE NO.
CODE/EXT.

WILL CALL AGAIN

IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

RETURNED YOUR CALL

WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

515-284-8096

Pres. said Mrs. F.
+ Jack going
to Iowa

RECEIVED BY

R.

DATE

6/18

TIME

11:10

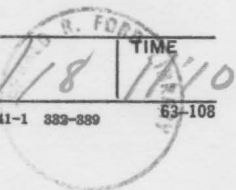
STANDARD FORM 63

REVISED AUGUST 1967

GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

GPO : 1969-048-16-80341-1 333-389

63-108



6/18/76

11:10

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Jennie Savin
CBS.

457-4444

Pres. said Jack
& Mrs. Ford going
to Iowa.

**MEMORANDUM
OF CALL**

TO: _____

YOU WERE CALLED BY—

YOU WERE VISITED BY—

Jane Whitman (OK)

OF (Organization)

Newsweek

PLEASE CALL →

PHONE NO.
CODE/EXT. _____

WILL CALL AGAIN

IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

RETURNED YOUR CALL

WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

2/00

*George NBC
negated*

RECEIVED BY _____

DATE _____

TIME _____

MEMORANDUM
OF CALL

TO:

Sally

YOU WERE CALLED BY—

YOU WERE VISITED BY—

Fran Lewine

OF (Organization)

PLEASE CALL →

PHONE NO.
CODE/EXT. _____

WILL CALL AGAIN

IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

RETURNED YOUR CALL

WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

*Depart
& arrival } Urgent*



RECEIVED BY

R.

DATE

6/18

TIME

11:30

STANDARD FORM 63

REVISED AUGUST 1967

GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

GPO : 1969-O48-16-80341-1 322-389

63-108

**MEMORANDUM
OF CALL**

TO: _____

YOU WERE CALLED BY— YOU WERE VISITED BY—

Peter Gregg
OF (Organization) *AP*

PLEASE CALL → **PHONE NO.**
CODE/EXT. _____

WILL CALL AGAIN IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

RETURNED YOUR CALL WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

on 670



RECEIVED BY	DATE	TIME

**MEMORANDUM
OF CALL**

TO:

YOU WERE CALLED BY— YOU WERE VISITED BY—

Don Erwin

OF (Organization)

L.A. Times

PLEASE CALL → **PHONE NO. CODE/EXT.**

WILL CALL AGAIN IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

RETURNED YOUR CALL WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

*heading for National
Airport — will
call back about
Des Moines*

RECEIVED BY

DATE

TIME



MEMORANDUM
OF CALL

To: .

YOU WERE CALLED BY— YOU WERE VISITED BY—

Bob Furnad

OF (Organization)

ABC.

PLEASE CALL \longrightarrow PHONE NO. CODE/EXT. _____
 WILL CALL AGAIN IS WAITING TO SEE YOU
 RETURNED YOUR CALL WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

*2165
what () Mrs. F
arriving*



RECEIVED BY	DATE	TIME

**MEMORANDUM
OF CALL**

TO:

YOU WERE CALLED BY— YOU WERE VISITED BY—

Kirk Matthews

OF (Organization)

St. Louis Post Dispatch

PLEASE CALL  PHONE NO. CODE/EXT. _____

WILL CALL AGAIN IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

RETURNED YOUR CALL WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

2164 —

RECEIVED BY

DATE

TIME

SM | *6-18* | *11:00*

MEMORANDUM
OF CALL

TO: _____

Sally

YOU WERE CALLED BY— YOU WERE VISITED BY—

Jim Naughton

OF (Organization) _____

293-3160

PLEASE CALL → PHONE NO. CODE/EXT. _____

WILL CALL AGAIN IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

RETURNED YOUR CALL WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

N.Y. Times

*Fran
Levine*



RECEIVED BY _____ DATE _____ TIME _____

R.

6/18 11:25

WITHDRAWAL SHEET (PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES)

FORM OF DOCUMENT	CORRESPONDENTS OR TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
Manifest	Manifest and page of handwritten notes for Mrs. Ford's Visit to Des Moines, Iowa. 2 pages. (This item is part of a larger document case of notes)	ND	B

File Location:

Sheila Weidenfeld Files, Box 26, Folder: "6/18/1976 - Des Moines, Iowa - State Republican Convention" SMD - 1/13/2017

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R

FORD-POLITICS

BY FRANCES LEWINE

WASHINGTON (AP) -- PRESIDENT FORD EMPHASIZED HIS PRESIDENTIAL DUTIES TODAY AND AVOIDED A FACE-TO-FACE CONFRONTATION WITH RONALD REAGAN WHEN HE CANCELLED AN IOWA CAMPAIGN TRIP TO KEEP WHITE HOUSE WATCH OVER EVACUATION OF AMERICAN CITIZENS IN LEBANON.

THE LEBANESE SITUATION ALLOWED HIM TO STAY AWAY FROM A POSSIBLY EMBARRASSING POLITICAL SITUATION IN DES MOINES.

INSTEAD OF BEING ON THE SAME PLATFORM WITH CHALLENGER RONALD REAGAN, FORD ANNOUNCED HE WOULD PERSONALLY FOLLOW THE PROGRESS OF THE U.S. CITIZENS TRAVELING FROM BEIRUT IN AN OVERLAND CONVOY TO DAMASCUS, SYRIA.

FORD ALSO WILL GO TO NEARBY ANDERREWS AIR FORCE BASE ON SATURDAY "TO PAY HIS RESPECTS" WHEN THE BODIES OF TWO AMERICAN DIPLOMATS MURDERED IN LEBANON ARE RETURNED TO WASHINGTON.

CAMPAIGN SPOKESMAN PETER KAYE SAID HE EXPECTED THE DECISION TO CANCEL THE IOWA TRIP MIGHT HELP FORD IN HIS QUEST FOR 36 DELEGATES AT THE IOWA STATE CONVENTION.

"IT MIGHT HELP BY REMINDING PEOPLE THAT HE'S PRESIDENT AND HE'S IN THE BUSINESS OF HAVING TO LIVE WITH THE TOUGH DECISIONS AND HOW HE LIVES WITH CRISES," KAYE SAID.

HOWEVER, HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE PRESIDENT'S FAILURE TO APPEAR MIGHT KEEP AWAY SOME DELEGATES WHO MIGHT HAVE VOTED FOR HIM.

IOWA, ALONG WITH NORTH DAKOTA, WAS ONE OF TWO REMAINING BATTLEFIELDS WHERE THE OUTCOME OF THE DELEGATE RACE BETWEEN FORD AND REAGAN WAS IN CLOSE CONTENTION.

IT ALSO WAS TO BE THE FIRST TIME IN THE SIX-MONTH PRIMARY BATTLE THAT FORD AND REAGAN WERE TO SIT DOWN TOGETHER AT THE SAME EVENT -- A \$25-A-PLATE TESTIMONIAL DINNER FOR REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CHAIRMAN MARY LOUISE SMITH IN HER HOMETOWN OF DES MOINES.

THE PRESIDENT SENT HIS WIFE BETTY AND SON JACK IN HIS PLACE TO MEET WITH DELEGATES AND ATTEND THE DINNER.

FORD HAD HELD ANOTHER MORNING MEETING WITH HIS NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISERS AND THEN WENT INTO A 69-MINUTE CABINET MEETING, WHERE SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER BRIEFED ON THE LEBANON SITUATION.

FORD CAMPAIGN MANAGER ROGERS MORTON ATTENDED THE CABINET MEETING AND THEN LEFT FOR DELAWARE, WHERE FORD WAS EXPECTED TO WIN MOST OF 17 DELEGATES BEING NAMED SATURDAY.

ASSISTANT PRESS SECRETARY LARRY SPEAKES SAID FORD WOULD BE GIVEN UP-TO-DATE REPORTS FROM ADVISERS AS THE U.S. EVACUATION PROCEEDED.

06-18-76 15:05EDT

R

WASHINGTON ADD FORD-REAGAN (N40)

IN ANNOUNCING FORD WOULD NOT MAKE THE TRIP, WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY RON NESSEN SAID THE PRESIDENT DIRECTED THE U.S. EMBASSY IN BEIRUT TO AID IN THE EVACUATION OF AMERICAN CITIZENS WHO WISH TO LEAVE LEBANON.

IN BEIRUT, THE EMBASSY "STRONGLY URGED" THE REMAINING 1,400 AMERICANS TO LEAVE IN A CONVOY ORDERED BY THE PRESIDENT.

IN A BRIEF STATEMENT, NESSEN SAID: "THE PRESIDENT HAS CANCELLED HIS TRIP TO IOWA BECAUSE OF THE IMPENDING EVACUATION AND THE SITUATION IN LEBANON."

HE SAID FIRST LADY BETTY FORD AND THE FORD'S SON JACK WILL GO TO DES MOINES IN THE PRESIDENT'S PLACE.

06-18-76 11:24EDT

UP -039

(FORD)

(BY HELEN THOMAS)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- PRESIDENT FORD CANCELED A POLITICAL TRIP TO IOWA TODAY TO REMAIN IN WASHINGTON TO DIRECT THE EVACUATION OF AMERICANS FROM LEBANON, WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS SAID.

THE TRIP, ORIGINALLY PLANNED FOR THE PURPOSE OF WINNING AS MANY OF IOWA'S 36 REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION DELEGATES AS POSSIBLE, ALSO WAS TO HAVE INCLUDED THE FIRST FACE-TO-FACE MEETING IN THE CAMPAIGN BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND HIS RIVAL, RONALD REAGAN.

"THE PRESIDENT HAS CANCELED HIS TRIP TO IOWA BECAUSE OF THE SITUATION IN LEBANON AND THE IMPENDING EVACUATION OF AMERICANS FROM LEBANON," WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY RON NESSEN TOLD REPORTERS.

NESSEN SAID FIRST LADY BETTY FORD AND THE PRESIDENT'S SON JACK WOULD GO TO DES MOINES IN HIS PLACE.

UPI 06-18 11:18 AED

UP -

UP -056

ADD POLITICS, SEA ISLAND

WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY RON NESSEN SAID FORD CANCELED THE TRIP BECAUSE OF THE SITUATION IN LEBANON AND THE IMPENDING EVACUATION OF AMERICANS FROM LEBANON.

PETER KAYE, SPOKESMAN FOR THE FORD CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE, SAID CALLING OFF THE TRIP WOULD NOT HURT THE PRESIDENT POLITICALLY "IF PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THE REASONS. BUT THERE'S ALWAYS THE DANGER IT MIGHT."

KAYE SAID ROGERS MORTON, HEAD OF THE FORD COMMITTEE, MET WITH THE PRESIDENT AS THE DECISION WAS MADE. "ROG ACCEPTED THE DECISION -- THE PRESIDENT HAS TO PUT HIS DUTIES ABOVE POLITICS," KAYE SAID.

A WHITE HOUSE SOURCE SAID FORD'S DECISION COULD HELP HIM BY ENHANCING HIS IMAGE AS A NATIONAL LEADER.

UPI 06-18 12:18 PED

Mrs. Ford Steps In to Do Battle With Reagan in Iowa

BY DON IRWIN
and GEORGE SKELTON
Times Staff Writers

DES MOINES—Standing in for her husband, Mrs. Betty Ford sparred politically with Ronald Reagan Friday at a state convention considered a possible make-or-break test for the Republican presidential nomination.

One of President Ford's leading supporters, Iowa Gov. Robert D. Ray, told reporters that a loss by Ford

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Ford Skips Iowa Showdown, Opponents Whisper Chicken

By James R. Dickenson
Washington Star Staff Writer

DES MOINES — President Ford's decision not to attend the Iowa State Republican convention took much of the drama out of the anticipated face-to-face confrontation between him and Ronald Reagan but did not ease party leaders' fears that the candidates' tight battle for the state's 36 delegates could weaken the party for the general election.

Ford decided at the last minute not to attend the convention because of the evacuation of American civilians from Lebanon. Reagan supporters, however, contended that the President was reluctant to face Reagan head on as he did in Missouri last weekend and said that it would give

him a face-saving excuse if Reagan should win most of the Iowa delegates.

Ford supporters countered that the President could not afford to appear to be chasing delegates at a time when American lives were at stake and said that if he does win he would show that he could do so by acting like a president and not like a campaigner.

Ford's wife, Betty, and his son Jack, flew in from Denver and argued that his record of peace and prosperity warranted his being awarded the nomination.

REAGAN SPOKE at a rally attended by nearly 1,000 of the 3,495 state convention delegates and ad-

See IOWA, A-6

Iowa: Ford 19, Reagan 17

Desk 6/20/76

By David S. Broder
Washington Post Staff Writer

DES MOINES, June 19—
With the help of some pre-dawn, high-pressure bargaining, backers of Ronald Reagan bluffed President Ford's forces out of a floor fight today at the Iowa Republican convention and held Mr. Ford to a 19-to-17 split in national convention delegates.

Both sides in the close GOP presidential nomination battle fell short of their advance predictions, but the Ford camp's decision to accept a standoff here gave Reagan the overall advan-

lage in the weekend struggle for delegates.

With Reagan outgaining Mr. Ford 38 to 7 in Washington state, Texas and Colorado, while Mr. Ford won 13 of 17 votes in Delaware, the race for the presidential nomination grew even tighter. The Washington Post delegate count as the weekend began gave the President 958 votes to 887 for Reagan, with 155 uncommitted.

The top delegate-hunters for both sides, here for this intense battle, repeated their claims of eventual victory. John P. Sears, the Reagan campaign director,

said the former California governor would overtake Mr. Ford in the delegate count by the July 10 state conventions in Colorado and North Dakota.

Stuart K. Spencer, deputy chairman of the Ford campaign, countered with the claim that the President would pass the magic number of 1,130 for nomination on July 17 in Connecticut.

But the lesson of the Iowa convention—to both sides—is that these battles are so highly charged with emotion and so rife with confusion that they ultimately can turn on the vagaries of a

See IOWA, A10, Col. 1

OV

A 10 Sunday, June 20, 1976 THE WASHINGTON POST



Associated Press

Ronald and Nancy Reagan, center, wade through sea of Ford signs in Spokane, Wash.

Ford Camp Accepts A Standoff in Iowa

IOWA, From A1

Ray, Rep. Charles E. Grassley, who is uncommitted,

Sen. Robert F. Griffin of Michigan said, "It was a

Betty Ford Pinch Hits In Iowa

By David S. Broder

Washington Post Staff Writer

DES MOINES, June 18—

First Lady Betty Ford, substituting for the President at a crucial Iowa delegate-selection convention, said tonight that she could not understand why Republicans "should want to make a change . . . when things are going so well."

Her husband's rival, Ronald Reagan, told a separate rally here that voters would reject the Republican Party in November "if it makes itself so much like the Democratic Party you can't tell the difference."

With President Ford staying in Washington because of the Lebanon crisis, Mrs. Ford took on the job of rallying his backers at a weekend convention that will elect 36 delegates to the national convention in Kansas City in August.

Iowa Gov. Robert D. Ray, leader of the Ford forces in the state, said he was "terribly disappointed" at the President's decision to stay in Washington, but still forecast that Mr. Ford would win at least 23 of the delegates here.

But Ray Hagie, chairman of the Iowa Reagan Committee, told reporters his can-

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Mrs. Ford Steps In to Do Battle With Reagan in Iowa

BY DON IRWIN
and GEORGE SKELTON

Times Staff Writers

DES MOINES—Standing in for her husband, Mrs. Betty Ford sparred politically with Ronald Reagan Friday at a state convention considered a possible make-or-break test for the Republican presidential nomination.

One of President Ford's leading supporters, Iowa Gov. Robert D. Ray, told reporters that a loss by Ford here would make it "very difficult" for the President ultimately to defeat Reagan.

The battle for the 36 delegates at stake at this Iowa convention was considered as close and the outcome

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First Lady Betty Ford was dispatched to Des Moines to substitute for her husband.

One effect of Mrs. Ford's visit was that it crimped Reagan's normal style. Usually, he delivers a rousing speech pinpointing the differences between him and the President on detente, budgeting and the Washington Establishment. But with Mrs. Ford in the convention hall, Reagan spoke briefly instead about the need for party unity.

Washington's two-day convention was extremely bitter, as political con-

claves in that state frequently are.

Angered by parliamentary rulings, the Ford delegates—outnumbered 737 to 424—had threatened to walk out of the convention, hinting that the dramatic move might come during Reagan's speech on Saturday. But they backed off.

Reagan's supporters were so well organized at the Washington convention that they kept in touch by floor telephones—just like the movers and shakers at national conventions—and held up signs during floor skirmishes to advise friendly delegates how to vote.